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## Failures of Memory, Memories of Failure

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**INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF  
CULTURE & SOCIETY**



**Professor Ana Del Sarto**

**Failures of Memory,  
Memories of Failure**

Wednesday, October 27 at 2:00 p.m.  
Sky Bank Room (201A), BTSU

In a time of violence and repression, how can novelists trace and express the history erased by a "politics of amnesia?"

How can fictional autobiographies bear testimony not only of injury, but of new social and cultural alternatives?

What happens to local memory when "transitional" democracy and globalization replace military regimes in Latin America?

Repression and censorship, fear and terror were conspicuous in the dictatorships of Latin America from the 1970s until the late 1980s. In the aftermath, the cultural effects of violence and repression were intricately related to the "transitional" democracies of the early 1990s. In both Argentina and Chile, the "politics of amnesia" promoted by military regimes and the erasures of local memory caused by globalization have repressed most utopian projects. Caught amidst authoritarianism and global consumerism, censorship and informationalism, ideological conservatism and economic neoliberalism, literary production during the democratic transition pivots between the failures of memory and the memory of failure. Yet the precarious and fragmented memories elaborated through fictional autobiographical narratives suggest new social and cultural alternatives.

Dr. Ana Del Sarto is Assistant Professor in the Department of Romance Languages at BGSU. Her research focuses on contemporary Latin American literatures and cultures, literary and cultural theory, and Latin American cultural studies. The author of numerous articles and chapters, Del Sarto is co-editor of *The Latin American Cultural Studies Reader* (Duke, 2004) and *Revista Iberoamericana: Los Estudios Culturales Latinoamericanos Hacia el Siglo XXI* (2003).

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